
Trinity Chapel Newsletter

April 2008



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

Rector: The Reverend Marsha Hoecker
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*Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m., followed by Coffee Hour.
Childcare and Sunday School through high school age also at 9:30 a.m.*

Vestry Members

Senior Warden: Paul Wade
Junior Wardens: Maureen Panetta/Nancy Sawyer
Treasurer: Michael King Assistant Treasurer: Karen Akins
Lindsay Comeau, Amy Grundy, Betty Mahon, Tom Shepherd, Beth Wade

Resurrection Continues.....

For us new life in Christ is often a process not a single transforming event. As that wonderful baptism hymn proclaims:

"We know that Christ is raised and dies no more...

Reborn we share with him an Easter life

As living members of a living Christ...

A new creation comes to life and grows

As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood

The universe restored and whole will sing."

We are the new body that takes on flesh and blood, the new creation that comes to life and grows. Growth is a process and we grow daily into the full stature of Christ, dying and rising many times as we let go of our older selves and embrace the new.

We are challenged every day to choose new life over older, worn out, and ineffective ways of being. We are challenged to let go of old hurts, let go of depression, let go of obsessions, let go of guilt, let go of destructive behaviors, let go of prejudices, let go of fear, and sometimes to even let go of comfort and security in order to embrace the resurrected life we have in Jesus Christ.

As spring overcomes this seemingly endless winter may we also find our resistance overthrown. May we awake to hope and embrace new life.

For our parish community this awakening may be manifest in new energy for ministry.

Can we do the work that still needs to be done to grow this church? Can we find ways of sharing the good news about resurrection and about this

friendly and faithful community that is ready to welcome the stranger? Do you have gifts to share to help in this work?

"Christ is alive! Let Christians sing..."

May our lives and our ministry proclaim, "The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



This is your newsletter! Your family news, special prayer intentions, and information you want to share about the world around us should be forwarded to Lynn Gresock by 4/29/08 for the May issue: 978-448-6947 or lynn.gresock@amec.com



In Our Prayers. We continue prayers for parishioners, family and friends who are in need of healing, whether from sickness or sorrow. Please offer special prayers for strength and healing for:

- † Adele Lamoreaux;
- † Phil Lamoreaux;
- † Dorothy Nichols;
- † Betty Mahon;
- † Prudy Harris;
- † Louise Longley;
- † Cathy Longley;
- † Jane Bouvier;
- † Jessica Halloran;
- † Renee Raymond (Bert's brother);
- † Martha Blanchard (Mona's aunt);
- † Keith Warden;
- † Carol Dozlis (Monique's mother);
- † Judy Knox;
- † Bessie Haynes (John's mother);
- † Donald Cobb;
- † Myles Gray (Frances' son);
- † Helen Wilkins (recovering from surgery);
- † Grant MacLean;
- † Gina Ledger (a friend of Maureen's);
- † Marion Groze (Anna's friend);
- † Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson (Anna's friends);
- † Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Cole (Anna's friends); and
- † Micky and Mike Carter.

Prayers continue also for our men and women in the armed forces, especially:

- † Hector Fernandez;
- † Ned Sullivan;
- † Mike Adelberg;
- † Tim Fahey;
- † Frank Main;
- † Charles Therrien;
- † Christopher Phelps;
- † Bill Duddridge;
- † Marin Ladd;
- † Jorge Carrillo;
- † Joseph Hillenbrand;
- † Nathan Tarlton;
- † Steven Holmes;
- † Stu Younger who is in Afganistan;
- † Bruce Gibson who is in Iraq; and
- † Anthony McAuliff who has been shot in Iran.

“Where Two or Three are Gathered” – TAG Team News. The TAG team is moving into the final stage of planning our “second service.” Three service times have emerged as finalists for this new worship service where we hope to attract young families seeking a spiritual home: Saturday evening, Sunday evening or Thursday evening with a meal. These are the times that people in our target group have mentioned to us as being easiest for them. Our new service will initially be held twice a month, in the first and third weeks.

We are also checking three potential locations for this worship service. We are exploring possibilities at The Bull Run, the Old Town Hall in the Center, and the War Memorial building in the village. We want a space that, while not too expensive to rent, will allow us to create a more open worship space, where chairs can be rearranged and the altar table can be more central. As we expect children to be a part of this service we want to be able to create child-friendly areas within the worship space.

Lew Sheen is planning to begin working with his son Lewis on developing some music for our services, drawing on a variety of styles and resources, from the Christian and secular repertoire (but all appropriate for sacred use).

The target date for our debut service is the first week in October. We will be meeting twice a month between now and then, planning our first few services, and preparing our publicity. If anyone is interested in joining us in this work, please let Marsha know.

It is exciting and creative and a bit scary too! We want to design a meaningful and deeply spiritual experience that invites and nurtures, and feels comfortable, rather than strange or pushy. We want to share our love of God in a way that will inspire others to join us in building the Kingdom of God and in sharing the love of Christ with the world. And we also know that whatever we create needs to be flexible so that it can grow and change as we get to know our new members. Eventually we hope they will be the ones who bring their creativity to this ministry.



Loaves and Fishes. We offer thanksgiving for those who walked or sponsored the Good Friday Walk, and for all who remember donations each Sunday as a part of our offering to God.

Thank You for Our Beautiful Easter Flowers!



Flowers were offered by:

- * Sue Cody *in thanksgiving for family and friends*
- * Nancy Sawyer *in memory of Genevieve and Benjamin Parker and Roberta Inhoff*
- * Bunny and David Stewart *in memory of their parents*
- * Prudy Harris *in thanksgiving for the Harris family*
- * Donna King
- * Lewis Sheen
- * Anna Mason *in memory of Henry Mason and in thanksgiving for her family*
- * Louise Longley

If you would like to see a larger view of our lovely Easter altar, contact Bunny and David Stewart (dcskhs@comcast.net) to receive your newsletter via e-mail!

Vestry Highlights from February 24, 2008.

Tom Shepherd and Betty Mahon were welcomed as new members.

We tentatively set a date for a vestry Day Away for April 27. "Vitality" and "viability" were suggested as the topics of discussion.

Mike reported some unpaid bills, including Marsha's pension and health insurance. The commercial loan for the rectory is being refinanced, perhaps at a lower rate.

We looked at our 2008 goals (developing youth ministry, redoing the kitchen and parish hall, creating a second service, increasing membership, revitalizing the auxiliary, developing the garden/labyrinth and specific fundraising) to

prioritize them – membership, youth ministry and the second service were at the top.

Marsha reported that the TAG team had met. We will need money, not currently in the budget, for the second service. She proposed writing a grant for funds Bishop Cederholm mentioned were available.

Paul suggested soliciting "spare change" to fund a refrigerator and a waterheater, both needed.

Don Reed of the Historic District Commission has done a drawing for a 24 x 24 kitchen addition. We might be able to close off the plumbed areas to save on heat. Marsha suggested a kitchen committee be formed. Beth will chair: Mike, David, John and Maureen and Amy were suggested.

Marsha presented the parochial report. There was an increase of 17 persons and a decrease of five. Total number 136; in good standing 78. Nineteen members are under age 16.

Vestry Highlights from March 28, 2008. The Day Away will be held on April 27, at the Shepherd's house, after church. The diocese's "Viability and Vitality" agenda may be the subject or Maria Platt, who does public relations for the diocese, may be able to come. Paul moved that we provide funds to send Marsha to the diocesan clergy conference, April 15-18. Mike seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Paul and some others from St. David's will go to work on a Habitat for Humanity house in Townsend on April 5. Anyone interested in joining them should see Paul.

Leadership for the Strawberry Festival was discussed. The tentative date is June 21. Marsha suggested an after-church meeting in April (the 20th?) to discuss new ideas. The Hoe Down is usually the first week in June – we will try to be on top of things to maximize fundraising.

Marsha has met with the diocese regarding her tri-parish work, and has filed a report. There will be further discussion about the original goals of the project. The "Foyer Group" idea (sort of like a focus group) to help people get to know each other has been suggested. Dave Stewart has said he would be willing to coordinate these.

Property projects were discussed. Work still needed at the rectory: downstairs bathroom, storm windows, the corner "cave ins," kitchen sink

and counters and front porch rebuilding. Garden and grounds need clean up, and the vegetable garden could be a project. We have received the approval letter from the Historic District Commission for painting the front door – Mike said he will pay for the door paint. A yard and garden cleanup at the rectory on April 26 is tentatively scheduled.

We will start some planning for the parish hall kitchen, to try to be ready when opportunity knocks, although actual work is not likely to happen for two or three years.

Marsha reported for the TAG team on potential locations and timing of the second service. Marsha is working on a grant to help fund publicity and some secretarial work for this and Tri-Parish efforts.

Nashoba Missioner News. The Tri-Parish Committee met in March and spent some time defining the goals for the committee and for the missioner in 2008.

At the top of everyone's list is the development of a Tri-parish Youth Ministry. Each of the three parishes, St. David's in Pepperell, St. Andrew's in Ayer, and Trinity Chapel in Shirley, will be recruiting at least one person who is passionate about getting something going for our young people as well as some youth representatives who can form a development group. They will meet regularly to prayerfully discern the best way to invite our teens into a relationship with God, the church and one another, recognizing their gifts and passions and helping them to grow into "the full stature of Christ." The Missioner will support the development of this leadership group and will direct the group to diocesan and other resources.

We also want to work together to make our three churches better known in the surrounding community. One way we hope to do this is by developing a very nice brochure that would highlight our Tri-parish cooperation and would have a page for each individual church, pointing out its unique qualities, programs and service times. We would distribute this brochure in a variety of places where newcomers to the community would have access to it.

The three parishes will be working together on mission projects, beginning this spring by forming a construction team to help with the Habitat house

being built in Townsend. We may also plan a fundraising walk using the Ayer to Pepperell rail trail.

We will be encouraging the emergence of "communities of practice" from the three churches. By this we mean groups of people representing all three churches who are interested or passionate about a particular ministry. For example, people who are passionate about caring for the environment and actively working to change behavior in order to be better stewards of the earth might meet together to development strategies and activities as well as pray and study together. Another group might form a Tri-parish choir that could sing together and share musical ideas as well as present music to the public a few times a year. Sunday school teachers might gather to enhance their work or maybe to plan some joint activities – an intergenerational learning weekend, perhaps.

If you are intrigued by this idea and might like to get a group going, talk to your Tri-parish representative or contact Marsha Hoecker, the Missioner, and we will help you gather some people together and to receive some training in being a group facilitator.

On Ascension Day, Thursday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. we will have our second annual shared worship celebration at St. Andrew's in Ayer. Last year the service was well attended by members of all three churches and very much enjoyed. The three clergy will share in leading worship, preaching, and celebrating, and lay people from the three parishes will serve as readers and acolytes. Singers from the three churches are invited to be part of the choir for the service, under the direction of Michael Smith, the organist/choir director at St. Andrews and at Groton School. After the service we will share food and fellowship with our neighbors from the other churches.

We are excited about our partnership and we hope that by combining our energy and passion we can enhance the ministry of our three churches in this region, becoming a vital and visible instrument of God's grace.

Marsha Hoecker, Nashoba Missioner





Kitchen Expansion Plans in Prospect.

In January a discussion group after coffee hour prepared a list of goals and objectives to be achieved by the Parish in the coming year. The final item on a list of

about ten was "Need to address the expansion of the kitchen." Although any such a project can only be achieved in the future, a concept plan has been prepared to keep kitchen expansion in mind for future consideration.

The plan, developed by Don Reed as a favor to the church, contemplates a low addition to the end of the Parish Hall toward the Granary. The existing kitchen and toilets would be removed, making the Parish Hall larger, and a large, modern kitchen with a storage area would be added, as well as two handicap-accessible toilets and a janitor's closet with sink off a privacy corridor. Pardon the pun, but...food for thought.

David Stewart

Diocesan Happenings. The April 2008 publication of F.Y.I. provides information about a number of activities, including:

- Congregational development grant applications are invited, with a deadline of May 20;
- Ongoing monthly (April 23 and May 14) Radical Welcome Circles at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston to address ways of being more welcoming to all;
- Summer camp registration for the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center is now available, with special weeks for family camp and choir camp;
- A leadership retreat will be held on April 12 at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn;
- Eucharistic Visitor Training is offered on May 3 at the Church of the Ascension in Fall River; and
- The Episcopal Church Women's annual retreat, focused on "Prayer Life," will be held on May 2 – 3 at St. Margaret's Convent in Roxbury, lead by our the Rev. Barbara Smith-Moran (who was one of our interim priests and well-known by Trinity Chapel).

For more information, consult www.diomass.org for the full publication.

Spring Fever... The Middlesex Conservation District will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale on Friday, April 25 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 26 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Westford. All items can be pre-ordered, and everything will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The sale will feature tree and shrub seedlings, perennials, herbs, fruits, groundcovers and garden supplies (rain barrels, compost bins, fertilizers, etc.). All proceeds are to this nonprofit agency. Whether thinking about gardens at the church or at home, this can be a worthwhile event. For orders or more information contact www.middlesexconservation.org or call 978-692-9395.

Prison Ministry. For those interested in the issues associated with prison support, the new Massachusetts Director of Corrections will be speaking on April 9 at the Trinitarian Congregational Church on Walden Street in Concord. This talk will be open to the public, and will focus on his vision with regard to community security and efforts to ensure prisoners can work toward becoming productive citizens.



Trinity Chapel Work Day. Bring your work gloves, rakes and saws to church on Saturday, April 26, and help us spruce up the church and rectory grounds, stack and cut wood, and maybe plant some flowers. We want to reconfigure and revive our vegetable garden as well, so feel free to bring seeds or plants to donate to the project. Anyone know of a good source of horse manure? Do you have some ideas for how to get it here?

Worship Planning Meeting. Please help us plan our worship for Rogation Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, Trinity Sunday and the summer months after the service on April 20. We'd love to have your ideas for prayers and hymns and ways to celebrate.





Why a Red Door? Trinity Chapel has received permission from the Shirley Historic Commission to paint our front door red. In the course of the approval process, several questions were posed by the Commission to the Episcopal

Diocese of Massachusetts.

First, on the question of which specific color would be most historically accurate, the number of choices provided reflects the varied meanings. Color choices offered (beyond the initial, funny "...if you prick your finger and check the color of your blood, that'll probably give you a pretty good idea...") were:

- ☉ Flame red (Holy Spirit);
- ☉ Lamb's blood red (Passover);
- ☉ Wittenberg Cathedral red (Protestant Reformation, historical);
- ☉ British Soldier Red (sanctuary, historical); and
- ☉ Individual church selection based on its theological focus.

Information was also provided highlighting the many (sometimes spiritual, sometimes mundane) "answers" as to the meaning behind the tradition. The color apparently could indicate:

- ☉ The presence of the Holy Spirit
- ☉ That the mortgage of the church has been paid
- ☉ That the mortgage of the church has **not** been paid
- ☉ A place of safety and refuge (a soldier could not pursue someone who had entered the red doors of a church)
- ☉ Holy ground, protecting from both physical and spiritual evil
- ☉ A haven for emotional and spiritual healing
- ☉ A historical link to the red doors of Wittenberg Cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany, where Martin Luther posted his Theses, indicating we are a church of the Reformation
- ☉ A historical link to Passover
- ☉ A representation of the blood of Christ that has been shed so that all who come to God's care may be saved

- ☉ The warmth of welcome, gleaming like a fire and showing the light and presence of the Holy Spirit for all who enter

However we choose to interpret it, this tradition is coming to Trinity Chapel and will link us to a wide and varied tradition within the Episcopal family. Your editor likes the sense of the door as a welcoming beacon and indication of the Spirit within, which fits well with our plans for welcome and growth to invite all who seek to find their place in God's family.



CHURCH CHUCKLE

These notices reportedly appeared in various church newsletters and bulletins.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

*

The sermon this morning "Jesus Walks on the Water."
The sermon tonight "Searching for Jesus."

*

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

*

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

*

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

*

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

*

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

*

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

*

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

*

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Stay tuned for more of these next month...



APRIL 2008 CALENDAR

Thursday, April 3.

7:30 p.m. Trinity Chapel – Book Study: The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg.

Sunday, April 6. The Third Sunday of Easter.

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

Lector: Lewis Sheen Chalice: Paul Wade

Prayers: Donna King Acolyte: Patricia

Crucifer: Meg

Meeting of the knitting/crochet ministry after the service.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: St. Mark's Church, Fall River; St. Barnabas' Church, Falmouth; St. Mark's Church, Foxborough; St. Andrew's Church, Framingham; and the Merrimack Valley Deanery.

Tuesday, April 8.

11:00 a.m. Rivercourt Residences Eucharist.

Wednesday, April 9.

7:30 p.m. TAG team meeting.

Thursday, April 10.

7:30 p.m. Tri-Parish meeting, Trinity Chapel.

Sunday, April 13. The Fourth Sunday of Easter.

2:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist.

Lector: Maia Cody Chalice: Lew Sheen

Prayers: Lynn Gresock Acolyte: Dakota

Crucifer: James

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: St. John's Church, Franklin; St. John's Church, Gloucester; St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Groton; Sextons and Custodians in Congregations; and Ministries to the Homeless.

Tuesday – Thursday, April 15 – 17.

Clergy Conference.

Thursday, April 17.

10:30 a.m. Apple Valley Eucharist.

7:30 p.m. Trinity Chapel – Book Study: The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg.

Sunday, April 20. The Fifth Sunday of Easter.

9:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist.

Lector: Steve Longley Chalice: Kirsten Lind

Prayers: Dave Stewart Acolyte: Meredith

Crucifer: Lindsay

Worship Committee Meeting following the service.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: St. James' Church, Groveland; St. David's Church, Halifax; St. Andrew's Church, Hanover; Christ Church, Harwichport; and the Ministry of all Altar Guilds.

Wednesday, April 23.

7:30 p.m. Tag Team meeting

Thursday, April 24.

7:30 p.m. Trinity Chapel – Book Study: The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg.

Saturday, April 26.

Outdoor Work Day at the Trinity Chapel

Sunday, April 27. The Sixth Sunday of Easter.

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

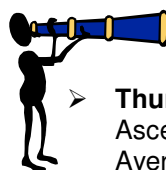
Lector: Beth Wade Chalice: Tom Shepherd

Prayers: Karen Akins Acolyte: Lily

Crucifer: Meredith

Vestry Day Away following the service.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: Trinity Church, Haverhill; Church of St. John the Evangelist, Hingham; St. John's Church, Holbrook; St. Michael's Church, Holliston; and the Essex County Community Organization.



LOOKING AHEAD

- **Thursday, May 1.** 7:00 p.m. Tri-Parish Ascension Day Service at St. Andrews Church, Ayer.
- **Sunday, May 4.** Rogation Procession.
- **First Weekend in June.** All Town Hoe Down. Pie bakers be ready!
- **Saturday, June 21.** Possible date for the Strawberry Festival. Start thinking of ideas and setting aside your sale items.



Trinity Chapel Altar, Easter Sunday 2008